



April 2, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: VIA Metropolitan Transit Bus US 281/Loop 1604 Area Park & Ride

Dear Representative Smith:

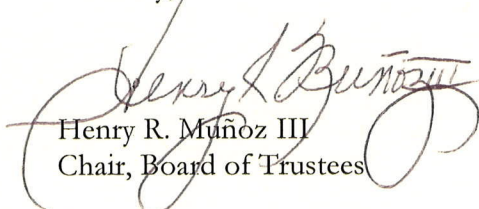
On behalf of San Antonio VIA Metropolitan Transit, I thank you for the opportunity to request federal appropriations support for the US 281/Loop 1604 Area Park & Ride. VIA has a proud record of providing safe, dependable, and cost-effective public transit to residents of the San Antonio metropolitan area. Our fleet handles over 140,000 passenger trips every weekday, ranking as the most efficient transit system in the state of Texas.

In order to better serve residents of the 21st Congressional district and improve public transit for the region, VIA is seeking \$3.5 million in federal support to design and build a Park & Ride facility in the area of US 281 North and Loop 1604. Such a facility is badly needed in order to accommodate the rapid and continuing growth in this sector of the city, which has far outpaced the capacity of existing transit facilities in the area. The proposed Park & Ride will sit on seven acres and include 572 parking spaces, with approximately four bus routes operating through the facility.

In the last few years, VIA has introduced an express route providing a direct transit connection between the rapidly growing US 281/Loop 1604 area and the downtown central business district. Currently, however, VIA is leasing parking space from neighboring facilities on a limited and temporary basis. A permanent transit facility is needed to better accommodate commuters, enable more area residents to utilize public transit, and connect additional workers to jobs and employment opportunities. Enhanced transit access along this corridor will also take a significant number of automobile trips off the already congested roadways, improving mobility, safety, and environmental quality.

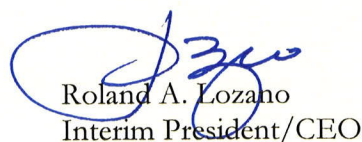
On behalf of San Antonio VIA Metropolitan Transit, I again thank you for your continuing service to the people of Texas and your support for this effort to provide the public transit infrastructure necessary to improve the quality of life and environment for your constituents and ours.

Sincerely,



Henry R. Muñoz III
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sincerely,



Roland A. Lozano
Interim President/CEO